

University of Waterloo
SENATE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting held 29 November 2023
[in agenda order]

Present: Sheila Ager, Jeff Casello, Judy Castaneda, Charmaine Dean, Paul Fieguth, Bruce Frayne, Mark Giesbrecht, Vivek Goel, Rob Gorbet, Mike Grivicic (secretary), Kevin Hare, Lili Liu, Kristiina Montero, James Rush (chair), Siva Sivoththaman, Diana Vangelisti, Annie Yang

Resources/Guests: Nasser Mohieddin Abukhdeir, Jean Becker, David DeVidi, Jenny Flagler-George, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Fayaz Noormohamed, Allan Starr

Absent: Trevor Charles, Chris Houser, Shana McDonald*, Narveen Jandu*, Jacinda Reitsma*, Mary Wells

*regrets

Organization of Meeting: James Rush took the chair and Mike Grivicic acted as secretary. The secretary advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. MINUTES OF THE 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING AND BUSINESS ARISING

A motion was heard to approve the minutes as distributed. Casello and Fieguth. Carried. There was no business arising.

3. OVERVIEW OF PORTFOLIO: ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC OPERATIONS

Fieguth provided a presentation: appointed to a five-year term commencing March 2023; this is a new administrative role which aims to foster relationships in alignment with academic priorities and plans, while overseeing connections with the physical infrastructure/capital planning function; one focus of the role is integrated planning, which links planning for physical resources with stakeholder engagement and the University's overarching strategic goals. A variety of active projects are underway within this portfolio, including: the integrated planning and budget office; new university budget model, a comprehensive examination of data governance; examination of space planning/renovation processes; and certain projects in collaboration with academic support units e.g. Registrar's Office, Library.

4. OVERVIEW OF INTEGRATED PLANNING

Fieguth provided a presentation: model of integrated planning links specific initiatives/activities with overall strategic directions and frameworks; seeking to adopt an approach where activity planning includes clear scope, timeframes, costs, assessment metrics, and identification of dependencies on other planned tasks or units within the University; initiate a system to track and advance planned activities in a transparent manner. Next steps: launch of the integrated planning and budget office; development of new budget model, including interface through which integrated planning interacts with the model; developing a better understanding of issues pertaining to data. In response to question, Fieguth clarified: budget office aims to avoid creating net new work, and ideally would supply prepopulated forms to facilitate the needs of users; new budget model aims to allow administrators to view the dependencies in their budgets; in the longer term, the interface to the budget model would aim to support administrators to assess different budget scenarios.

5. CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING

Goel provided a presentation: most recent master plan was completed in 2009 (as an update to the previous 1992 plan); key objective in this master planning process is to involve stakeholders as well as the President's Advisory Committee on Design, and a student-led project from the School of Planning will bring forward a report to advise on the process; Waterloo currently has considerable land available for development/infill opportunities, as well as at satellite campuses; timeline for the campus master plan exercise is 18 months, with completion expected in 2024. Members discussed: capital investment/replacement is tied to the building framework and applicable plans for decommissioning of buildings/spaces; the plan would benefit from a data-informed approach in identifying strategic directions.

6. FACULTY-LED NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS, NETWORKS, AND INITIATIVES

a. Indigenous Initiatives @ Waterloo to Address Truth and Reconciliation. Liu provided a presentation: aim of these initiatives is to foster Indigenous student engagement; one important way to foster engagement is by creating welcoming spaces on campus; use of land-based learning labs and gardens; work is underway toward a Type 2 diploma in Indigenous Studies, with the aim to launch in Fall 2024; the University is adopting strategies for Indigenous advancement including via engaging grant writers with an Indigenous focus, with the goal of securing funding for initiatives.

b. Cross-Faculty Master's Co-Supervision Initiative in Data and Computation. Giesbrecht provided a presentation: this initiative supports and promotes interdisciplinary research in the area of data; support opportunities and provide funding for co-supervision opportunities of master's students (where one professor has a primary appointment in Mathematics, and another professor comes from one of the other five Faculties); three years of funding has been secured to provide up to 15 fellowships per year, at \$10,000 per student per year; parallel activities include recruitment of graduate students and the launch of the Math+X Interfaculty Research Workshop in September 2023.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is Wednesday 28 February 2024 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., NH 3407.

22 December 2023

Mike Grivicic
Associate University Secretary